

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

This instance, along with the owner's earlier prohibition of allowing his ABC affiliates from televising a single program of Nightline devoted to recognizing U.S. casualties in Iraq, shows that this company is more interested in promoting its particular ideology than in reporting the news or serving the public interest.

It's time to restore the "fairness doctrine."

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.